

Claims:

1. A cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients  
and being formed from substantially air- and water-  
5 impermeable materials, said cartridge comprising an inlet  
for the introduction of an aqueous medium into the  
cartridge, and an outlet for a beverage produced from said  
one or more beverage ingredients, wherein said cartridge  
comprises means for producing a jet of the beverage, wherein  
10 said means for producing the jet of the beverage comprises  
an aperture in a beverage flow path linking the inlet to the  
outlet, characterised in that the cartridge comprises one or  
more microscopic projections at or in the vicinity of the  
aperture for contacting the beverage flow path.  
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2. A cartridge as claimed in claim 1 wherein the one or  
more microscopic projections comprise fibrils.
3. A cartridge as claimed in claim 1 wherein the one or  
20 more microscopic projections comprises surface  
irregularities.
4. A cartridge as claimed in claim 1 wherein the one or  
more microscopic projections comprises ribs.  
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5. A cartridge as claimed in any preceding claim wherein  
the one or more microscopic projections depend from a rim of  
the aperture.
- 30 6. A cartridge as claimed in any preceding claim wherein  
the one or more microscopic projections depend from a

surface of a conduit forming a portion of the beverage flow path.

7. A cartridge as claimed in claim 6 wherein the one or  
5 more microscopic projections are located at an entrance to the flow conduit.

8. A cartridge as claimed in claim 6 wherein the one or  
more microscopic projections are located at one or more  
10 positions in a region up to 30% along the length of the flow conduit measured from an upstream entrance.

9. A cartridge as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the microscopic projections have a height of 0.01 to 0.50  
15 mm.

10. A cartridge as claimed in claim 9 wherein the microscopic projections have a height of 0.09 to 0.11 mm.

20 11. A cartridge as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the microscopic projections have a thickness of 0.01 to 0.50 mm.

12. A cartridge as claimed in claim 11 wherein the  
25 microscopic projections have a thickness of 0.06 to 0.10 mm.

13. A cartridge as claimed in claim 12 wherein the microscopic projections have a thickness of 0.08 mm.

30 14. A cartridge as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the microscopic projections have a length of up to 2.5 mm.

15. A cartridge as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the aperture has a cross-sectional area of 0.4 to 0.7 mm<sup>2</sup>.

5 16. A cartridge as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the aperture is in the form of an elongated slot.

17. A cartridge as claimed in any preceding claim further comprising at least one inlet for air and means for  
10 generating a pressure reduction of the jet of beverage, whereby, in use, air from the at least one air inlet is incorporated into the beverage as a plurality of small bubbles.

15 18. A cartridge as claimed in claim 17 wherein the at least one air inlet is provided downstream of the aperture.

19. A cartridge as claimed in claim 17 or claim 18 wherein the insert comprises a discharge spout defining the outlet.

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20. A cartridge as claimed in claim 19 wherein the jet of beverage issuing from the aperture is directed into the discharge spout.

25 21. A cartridge as claimed in claim 20 wherein the jet of beverage impinges a surface of the discharge spout between issuing from the aperture and exiting the outlet.